

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, June 3, 1891, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. THE STRATFORD — Philadelphia, June 3, 1891. My darling Mama:

I am in great fear and trepidation over the results of yesterday's operation. Mabel has not yet recovered from the effects of the ether so we cannot tell yet how it promises to turn out.

She has been so brave through it all. No shrinking or turning back — and I do hope that the operation will render her stronger and better than she has been in the past.

The doctor said that the condition of the womb was such — that an operation at some time or other would have been necessary — otherwise a tumor or cancer might develop. I had the doctor give specimens of water for analysis to two distinguished experts who made their analyses quite independently of one another. Their reports agreed — and I was specially glad to find that there was no trace of kidney trouble now. These reports removed the last objections to the operation — and in fear and trembling I have given my consent. Mabel was bright and cheerful to the last — and welcomed the ether-bearer with a smile. Her bravery unmans me. I would not myself undergo what she has done — excepting as a last resort — to escape death.

She has had no fever — nor pain — but is sick and languid to-day from the ether and cannot retain food. I long for good news tomorrow.

Your loving son, Alec.